Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00738 261021Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-06 HA-05 /081 W

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R 260910Z NOV 77 FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE TO AMEMBASSY ROME INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1864 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0738

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PROP, IT

SUBJECT: FLORENCE SOCIALISTS ISSUE CRITICISM OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR

REF: FLORENCE 0729

- 1. FOLLOWING THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S CRITICISM OF THE VENICE BIENNALE DURING THE CEREMONY FOR THE FLORENCE-KIEV TWINSHIP AND SCYTHIAN EXHIBIT OPENING, THE FLORENCE PROVINCIAL SOCIALIST PARTY CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING ATTACK ON THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND HIS STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL. THE ONLY PUBLIC ATTENTION ACCORDED THE PRESS STATEMENT, WE UNDERSTAND, APPEARED IN THE NOVEMBER 20 ISSUE OF "IL GIORNALE".
- 2. THIS PSI STATEMENT NOTED THAT DISSENT WAS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR THE SOVIET UNION AND EMPHASIZED THAT MENTION OF IT BY CRITICIZING THE VENICE BIENNALE THEME WAS TOTALLY OUT OF PLACE AT A CULTURAL EVENT SUCH AS THAT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN FLORENCE. THE STATEMENT CONTINUED THAT DISSENT IN EASTERN EUROPE IS A PROBLEM WHICH CANNOT BE EXORCIZED BY VILE CRITICISM OF ANY KIND.
- 3. COMMENT: IN VIEW THEIR WELL-PUBLICIZED SUPPORT OF DISSENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 FLOREN 00738 261021Z

IN EASTERN EUROPE, THE LOCAL SOCIALIST PARTY HAD LITTLE ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ISSUE SOME SORT OF STATEMENT REGARDING THE VENICE BIENNALE. FACT THAT SOCIALIST STATEMENT RECEIVED NO LOCAL PUBLICITY IS PROBABLY DUE AS MUCH TO INEFFECTIVE MANNER BY WHICH IT WAS ISSUED RATHER THAN DESIRE MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE ON THIS MATTER. GORDON

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Message Attributes

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